State	* Monazite Resources (in million tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	3.73
Jharkhand & West Bengal	1.45
Kerala	1.37
Tamil Nadu	1.84
Orissa	1.82
TOTAL:	*10.21

* inclusive of indicated, inferred and speculative reserves. Monazite contains about 10% of Thorium Oxide.

(c) DAE undertakes investigations for onshore beach sand mineral deposits. The marine wing of Geological Survey of India has systematically surveyed the seabed sector between India and Srilanka within Idian jurisdiction. Presence of certain placer minerals in seabed sediments in low to moderate quantity has been recorded by GSI. However, the presence of thorium bearing mineral like monazite is negligible in such placer mineral assemblage.

(d) Monazite is the main source from which thorium is extracted. The Department is giving necessary assistance to the Indian Rare Earths Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department, for processing of the Monazite for extraction of thorium and its storage in a retrievable manner.

(e) Energy potential available in our Thorium reserves is huge. Percentage of atomic energy that could be met from Thorium would depend on nuclear generation capacity at which transition is made from second stage involving Fast Breeder Reactors to the third stage of Thorium Utilisation in the sequential implementation of our three stage programme.

Crisis of nuclear scientists in the country

†444. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Multinational companies associated with the production of nuclear energy are becoming active in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these companies are offering employment to the excellent scientists of the country with attractive pay and perks and as a result of which there is a crisis of nuclear scientists in the country;

(c) whether Government are formulating any scheme in this regard;

(d) whether multinational companies in the field of nuclear energy would affect country's security in any way; and

(e) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. While this has become a matter of serious concern this has not yet reached a level of crisis.

(c) The induction and retention policies of the Government are regularly reviewed to ensure availability of required manpower for the nuclear power programme. The Department has also placed its concern in this matter before the VI Pay Commission and has requested the Pay Commission to specifically examine the possibility of paying higher remuneration to the employees of DAE.

(d) No, Sir. Since the Atomic Energy Act permits only a Government company with more than 51% share holding by the Central Government to operate in the area of nuclear energy production.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Spillage of radioactive material at Narsannapeta

445. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trailer carrying the radio active yellow cake have overturned at Narsannapeta in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any spillage of radio active material and the subsequent environmental contamination have been noticed by the authorities;

(c) whether any directions have been given to the authorities to take measures which can prevent occurrence of such accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was no spillage of radioactive material. The Authorities who visited the accident site carried out contamination measurements and confirmed that there was no environmental contamination.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Transportation of radioactive material is always carried out in accordance with the approved safety requirements which ensures adequacy of containment of the material and safety to the public, even under accident condition. Further directions have been given that the drums should be firmly anchored by slings to the transport container to avoid any movement of drums during impact loads/jerks while in transit.

(c) Not applicable.